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NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION

(PCT Rule 61.2)

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

To:

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in its capacity as elected Office

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 16 February 2000 (16.02.00)	
International application No. PCT/GB99/01732	Applicant's or agent's file reference A25632 WO
International filing date (day/month/year) 01 June 1999 (01.06.99)	Priority date (day/month/year) 02 June 1998 (02.06.98)
Applicant BERRIE, Peter et al	

1. The designated Office is hereby notified of its election made:

☒ in the demand filed with the International Preliminary Examining Authority on:
 20 December 1999 (20.12.99)

☐ in a notice effecting later election filed with the International Bureau on:

2. The election ☒ was

☐ was not

made before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date or, where Rule 32 applies, within the time limit under Rule 32.2(b).

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35	Authorized officer Jean-Marc Vivet Telephone No.: (41-22) 338.83.38
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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference A25632 WO	FOR FURTHER ACTION		See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)
International application No. PCT/GB99/01732	International filing date (day/month/year) 01/06/1999	Priority date (day/month/year) 02/06/1998	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC H04L29/06			
Applicant BRITISH TELECOMMUNICATIONS et.al.			

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.


2. This REPORT consists of a total of 6 sheets, including this cover sheet.

- ☐ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the report
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☒ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☒ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 20/12/1999	Date of completion of this report 20.07.2000
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized officer Palacián Lisa, M Telephone No. +49 89 2399 8265



INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/GB99/01732

1. Basis of the report

1. This report has been drawn on the basis of (*substitute sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to the report since they do not contain amendments.*):

Description, pages:

1-11 as originally filed

Claims, No.:

1-17 as originally filed

Drawings, sheets:

1/2-2/2 as originally filed

2. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
☐ the claims, Nos.:
☐ the drawings, sheets:

3. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)):

4. Additional observations, if necessary:

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/GB99/01732

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes:	Claims	1-17
	No:	Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes:	Claims	
	No:	Claims	1-17
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes:	Claims	1-17
	No:	Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

VII. Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:

see separate sheet

VIII. Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

see separate sheet

Reference is made to the following document:

D1: WO-A-97 29584

Re Item V

Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Claim 13, which is the broadest claim, does not meet the requirement of inventive step, Article 33(3) PCT.
 - 1.1 Document D1 discloses a method of providing a connection service between a terminal and a data network. The terminal is connected to an access network and this access network is connected to the data network via an interface ("telephone exchange") (see, e.g. page 5, lines 30 to 36; Figure 1; page 8, lines 31-36).
In response to the terminal calling an interface access network address from a terminal access network address, the interface receives a connection through the access network from the terminal (see, e.g. page 8, lines 31 to 36). The interface ascertains an access network connection route attribute from the access network (see, e.g. page 9, lines 4 to 9). The interface allocates a data network address to the terminal and transmits the address to the terminal. The interface also provides a connection between the terminal and the data network (see, e.g. page 9, lines 25 to 33; Figure 3).
 - 1.2 Claim 13 differs from D1 in that the interface checks that this attribute is one of one or more valid access network connection route attributes associated with the connection service and, if said attribute is a valid one, it continues with the connection.
 - 1.3 Document D1 discloses the step of ascertaining an access network connection route attribute ("B-number") and it also states that this attribute 'acts as a service trigger' (see page 9, line 11). Therefore, it is obvious to derive from this information the step of continuing with the service only if the attribute is a valid one. Furthermore, once

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/GB99/01732

the checking of the attribute is disclosed in D1, it follows in a straightforward manner to check the attribute against a table of valid attributes associated with the service, because this checking is disclosed in D1 for the subscriber's number (see page 9, lines 4-6) and can be applied to the access network connection route attribute without exercising any inventive skill.

2. The subject-matter of independent claim 1 is not inventive because it comprises all the features of claim 13 and additionally discloses the use of the dialled interface telephone number as an access network connection route attribute. This feature is also disclosed in document D1 (see, e.g. page 9, lines 4 to 9).
3. Independent claim 8 comprises the same features as claim 1. Therefore, it also does not comprise an inventive step.
4. The above objections (see points 1 to 3) also apply to the apparatus claim 14 since the features described herein correspond to the method claim 8.
5. The dependent claims do not contain any additional feature which, in combination with the independent claims, meet the requirement of inventive step because all these features are known from D1 (associating the connection with a predefined set of data network addresses in the data network; valid interface telephone number having an associated set of data network addresses; arranging a telephone network billing system to charge for access to a valid interface telephone number at an associated predefined tariff; telephone network associating the dialled telephone number with a further interface telephone number used to complete the connection; checking that the terminal telephone number is not an invalid number associated with the connection service and denying a connection if it is an invalid number; interface comprising data network access means ascertaining the dialled interface telephone number and passing it to authentication means for checking if it is a valid interface telephone number, in case it is a valid one, allocating and transmitting a data network address to the terminal).

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/GB99/01732

Re Item VII

Certain defects in the international application

1. The independent claims are not in the two-part form as required by Rule 6.3(b) PCT, the features already disclosed in document D1 should have been placed in the preamble.
2. Reference signs in parentheses are not inserted in the claims to increase their intelligibility (Rule 6.2(b) PCT). This applies to both the preamble and characterising portion.
3. The document D1 is not identified in the description and its relevant content is not briefly indicated, Rule 5.1(a)(ii) PCT.

Re Item VIII

Certain observations on the international application

1. The application does not meet the requirement of conciseness, Article 6 PCT, because more than a single independent method claim is filed.

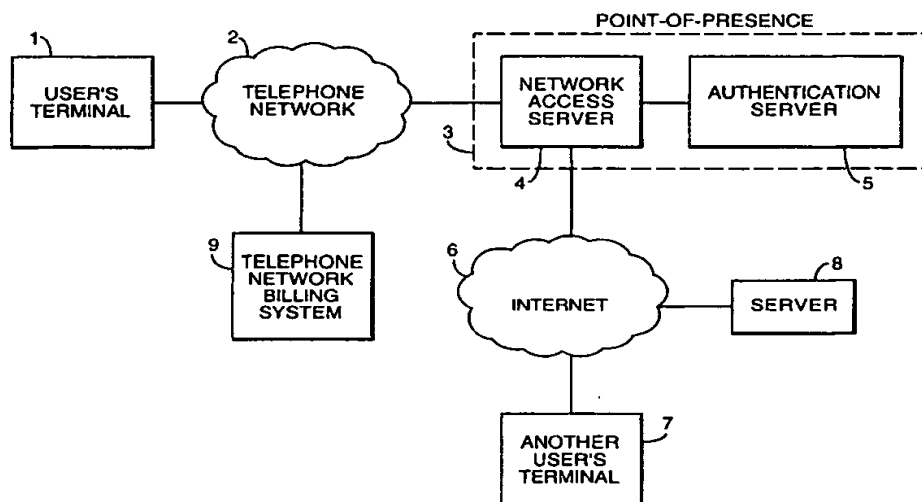


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INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

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(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB99/01732 (22) International Filing Date: 1 June 1999 (01.06.99) (30) Priority Data: 9811862.3 2 June 1998 (02.06.98) GB (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): BRITISH TELECOMMUNICATIONS PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANY [GB/GB]; 81 Newgate Street, London EC1A 7AJ (GB). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): BERRIE, Peter [GB/GB]; 22 Edis Street, London NW1 8LE (GB). BELL, Andrew, Charles [GB/GB]; The Bungalow, Bargate Lane, Dedham, Colchester CO7 6BN (GB). (74) Agent: GARRISON, Christopher, Sinclair; BT Group Legal Services, Intellectual Property Dept., Holborn Centre, 8th floor, 120 Holborn, London EC1N 2TE (GB).		(81) Designated States: AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>With international search report.</i>

(54) Title: DATA NETWORK ACCESS



(57) Abstract

There is described a method of providing a connection service between a user's terminal (1) connected to a telephone network (2) and the public Internet (6) through a point-of-presence (3). In this method, the user's computer dials a connection service access telephone number and a connection is created between the user's terminal (1) and the point-of-presence (3). The point-of-presence (3) then checks that the dialled connection service access telephone number is one of one or more valid connection service access telephone numbers. If the dialled connection service access number is valid then the point-of-presence (3) transmits an allocated Internet network address to the user's terminal (1). The point-of-presence (3) then provides a connection between the user's terminal (1) and the public Internet (6) for messages containing the allocated network address.

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DATA NETWORK ACCESS

This invention relates to a method of providing a connection between a user's terminal connected to a telephone network and a data network through an interface which is connected to both the telephone network and the data network.
5 This invention also relates to an interface for providing such a connection service.

The most widespread data network in use at present is the well-known public Internet. User's computers operated by individuals from their homes or individuals belonging to a small organisation are usually connected to the Internet
10 by a dial-up connection through a telephone network to an interface known as a point-of-presence. In presently known arrangements, the point-of-presence requires the user's computer to provide both a user name and password for authentication before it will connect the user's computer to the public Internet. Some users find it inconvenient to establish a user name and password before
15 gaining access to the public Internet.

It will be well known that the so-called Point-to-Point Protocol (PPP) is a datalink protocol that allows IP traffic to be carried over serial lines. See, for example, Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) Request For Comments (RFC) 1661. PPP provides for two types of password authentication, Password
20 Authentication Protocol (PAP) and Challenge-Handshake Authentication Protocol (CHAP). See further, for example, IETF RFC 1334.

A typical Internet Service Provider (ISP) at the present time will thus permit a user to connect to the Internet by means of a connection over a telephone network to a so-called Network Access Server (NAS) using PPP. The
25 NAS will then allow a connection to the Internet on condition that the user is authenticated.

If, for example, PAP authentication is utilised, the user will send a username and a plaintext password to the NAS. A process of authentication will then take place to ascertain whether or not that password is the valid password
30 for the username in question. Authentication may, for example, take place through the use of a so-called Remote Authentication Dial In User Service (RADIUS) server. See yet further, for example, IETF RFC 2138. In this case, the NAS would pass the username and password to the RADIUS server and the RADIUS server would authenticate the username on the basis of comparing the password provided with

the stored password corresponding to that username. If the password provided and the stored password match, then the RADIUS server would indicate to the NAS that that user had been authenticated and that the NAS may validly provide the user's computer with a network address, to allow subsequent access to the
5 network.

CHAP authentication is considerably more secure than PAP authentication in that it does not send the plaintext password over the PPP link. CHAP authentication instead relies upon a comparison of the results of a particular computation performed upon a user's password by the user's computer and, with
10 for example a RADIUS server, upon the stored password by the RADIUS server.

It may be the case that a user's password is the not the only authenticated attribute upon which access to a data network depends. A number of other attributes are known. The above mentioned IETF RFC 2138, for example, recites a list of such attributes. It is to be noted however that it is there provided,
15 as was the opinion before the advent of the present invention, that, in these circumstances, for any user to be allowed access, verification of the user's password must always take place.

It will thus be appreciated that since such present day authentication relies upon the user's username and password, the means of authentication must
20 already have a record of the user's username and password. As mentioned above, to gain access to, for example, the public Internet would thus inconveniently require that a user have a pre-established relationship with an Internet Service Provider.

According to one aspect of this invention there is provided a method of
25 providing a connection service between a terminal and a data network, said terminal being arranged to be connected to a telephone network and said telephone network being connected to said data network through an interface, said method comprising the steps of:

in response to said terminal dialling an interface telephone number from a
30 terminal telephone number, creating a connection through said telephone network between said terminal and said interface;

said interface ascertaining said dialled interface telephone number from said telephone network;

said interface checking that said dialled interface telephone number is one of one or more valid interface telephone numbers associated with said connection service;

in the event that said dialled interface telephone number is one of said
5 valid interface telephone numbers, said interface allocating a data network address to said terminal and transmitting said address to said terminal; and

said interface providing a connection between said terminal and said data network .

With this invention, a user's computer can thus be connected to a data
10 network without verification of a user name or password being necessary. Authentication is instead advantageously carried out on the basis of the telephone number dialled by the user's terminal to gain access to the connection service.

According to another aspect of this invention, there is provided a method of providing a connection service between a terminal and a data network, said
15 terminal being arranged to be connected to a telephone network and said telephone network being connected to said data network through an interface, said method comprising the steps of:

in response to said terminal dialling an interface telephone number from a terminal telephone number, said interface receiving a connection through said
20 telephone network from said terminal;

said interface ascertaining said dialled interface telephone number from said telephone network;

said interface checking that said dialled interface telephone number is one of one or more valid interface telephone numbers associated with said connection
25 service;

in the event that said dialled interface telephone number is one of said valid interface telephone numbers, said interface allocating a data network address to said terminal and transmitting said address to said terminal; and

said interface providing a connection between said terminal and said data
30 network .

According to yet another aspect of the invention, there is provided a method of providing a connection service between a terminal and a data network, said terminal being arranged to be connected to an access network and said

access network being connected to said data network through an interface, said method comprising the steps of:

in response to said terminal calling an interface access network address from a terminal access network address, said interface receiving a connection
5 through said access network from said terminal;

said interface ascertaining an access network connection route attribute from said access network;

said interface checking that said access network connection route attribute is one of one or more valid access network connection route attributes
10 associated with said connection service;

in the event that said access network connection route attribute is one of said valid access network connection route attributes, said interface allocating a data network address to said terminal and transmitting said address to said terminal; and

15 said interface providing a connection between said terminal and said data network .

According to yet another aspect of the invention, there is provided an interface for providing a connection service between a terminal and a data network, said terminal being arranged to be connected to a telephone network and
20 said telephone network being connected to said data network through said interface, said interface comprising:

means arranged to receive a connection through said telephone network from said terminal in response to said terminal dialling an interface telephone number from a terminal telephone number;

25 means arranged to ascertain said dialled interface telephone number from said telephone network;

means arranged to check that said dialled interface telephone number is one of one or more valid interface telephone numbers associated with said connection service;

30 means responsive to said checking means arranged to allocate a data network address to said terminal and transmitting said address to said terminal in the event that said dialled interface telephone number is one of said valid interface telephone numbers; and

means arranged to provide a connection between said terminal and said data network.

This invention will now be described in more detail, by way of example, with reference to the drawings in which:

5 Figure 1 is a block diagram of the components which are used to form a connection between a user's terminal and the public Internet in accordance with this invention; and

10 Figure 2 is a flow chart showing the operations which are used with the arrangement of Figure 1 to form a connection between the user's terminal and the public Internet.

Referring now to Figure 1, there is shown a user's terminal 1 which is connected to a public telephone network 2. The user's terminal 1 may be connected on a digital or ISDN (Integrated Services Digital Network) line or on an analogue line. Where the connection is on an analogue line, the user's terminal 1
15 is connected to the telephone network 2 through a modem.

The arrangement shown in Figure 1 also includes an interface known as a point-of-presence 3 comprising a network access server 4 and an authentication server 5. The point-of-presence 3 is connected to both the telephone network 2 and the public Internet 6. It will be appreciated that the public Internet 6 is shown
20 by way of only one example of any number of such suitable data networks which might instead be connected to the network access server 4. By way of an alternative an authentication server 5 might perform authentication for more than one network access server 4, each such network access server 4 at the respective points-of-presence 3 being connected to a single such authentication server 5.
25 Each of the servers 4 and 5 is a computer configured so as to provide the functionality described below. The authentication server 5 may, for example, be based upon a conventional RADIUS server, but modified in accordance with the invention. The network access server 4 includes a bank of modems for receiving calls on analogue lines.

30 By way of illustration, Figure 1 shows another user's computer 7 and also a further server computer 8 connected to the public Internet 6.

The telephone network 2 has a telephone service billing system 9. The operation of the billing system 9 will be described below.

The point-of-presence 3 is thus associated with an Internet Service Provider. The telephone network 2 and the point-of-presence 3 may be associated with the same operator or with different operators.

As is well-known, computers connected to the Internet can transmit
5 messages to each other using Internet protocols. These include the Transmission Control Protocol (TCP) and the Internet Protocol (IP). Computers connected to the Internet can also retrieve information pages stored on server computers, such as the server computer 8, using higher level protocols. Several higher level protocols have been established for retrieving information pages and these include the File
10 Transfer Protocol (FTP) and the now very well-known Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP). Pages which are transmitted using the Hypertext Transfer Protocol are stored using the well-known Hypertext Mark-up Language (HTML). In order to retrieve such pages, a user's computer needs a suitable browser such as the well-known Netscape browser. One particular combination of the public Internet 6 and
15 server computers connected to it and from which such information pages may be retrieved has become known as the World Wide Web (WWW). Information pages which may be retrieved from such server computers are commonly known as Web pages.

As indicated above, connection service methods known at the present
20 time involving authentication on the basis of a username and password require a username and password to be stored at the point-of-presence or otherwise to be available therefrom prior to any connection session. As will become clear, in accordance with the invention this inconvenience is avoided. No pre-existing record of a username and a password for each user is required.

25 As will be explained, authentication instead takes place on the basis of a dialled telephone number. This merely requires that a record of pre-arranged valid connection service access telephone numbers instead be stored. This might, for example, take place through the operator of the point-of-presence storing such an access telephone number at the point-of-presence and then offering a connection
30 service through that access telephone number. Alternatively, a third party, by prior arrangement with the point-of-presence operator and the telephone network operator if different, might be assigned a connection service access telephone number which is then stored at the point-of-presence.

Referring now to Figure 2, there are shown the operations which are to be performed in providing a connection service for creating a connection between, for example, a user's terminal 1, and the public Internet 6.

In a first step 20, the user's terminal 1 dials a connection service access
5 telephone number. This may, for example, be an ordinary local access telephone number or a special rate telephone number. The user of the user's terminal 1 may find it convenient to configure the terminal 1 with this dedicated telephone number. Alternatively, it may be possible to pre-configure the particular connection service access software used by the user's terminal 1 to call the desired telephone
10 number.

Then, in a second step 21, the telephone network 2 forms a connection between the user's terminal 1 and the network access server 4 in the point-of-presence 3. It will be appreciated that this may occur in a number of ways. In the first place, the telephone number called by the user's terminal 1 may simply
15 connect directly with the network access server 4. Alternatively, by prior arrangement, the telephone network 2 may be configured such that, when a user's terminal 1 calls the dialled telephone number, the telephone network 2 associates the called number with a different telephone number. The connection with the network access server 4 may then be completed using this different telephone
20 number. Such number translation functionality will be known from the International Telegraph and Telephone Consultative Committee (CCITT) Common-Channel Signalling System No.7. It will be further appreciated that, for example, a number of such dedicated telephone numbers may be translated into a single access telephone number for the network access server 4.

25 Once the call initiated by the user's terminal 1 has been connected to the network access server 4, the network access server 4 then proceeds in a third step 22 to ascertain the telephone number to which the user's terminal 1 placed the call. Such dialled number functionality, commonly referred to as Dialled Number Information Service (DNIS), will be known from the International
30 Telegraph and Telephone Consultative Committee (CCITT) Common-Channel Signalling System No.7.

It is to be noted that it may be the case that one of the above mentioned password authentication protocols is utilised at least as far as management of the link between the user's terminal 1 and the network access server 4 is concerned.

This, for the purposes of the invention, would merely have the effect of providing a username and a dummy password associated with the user's terminal to the network access server 4.

Next, in a fourth step 23, the network access server 4 sends the associated authentication server 5 a message requesting access in respect of the user's terminal 1. This message will contain the number dialled by the user's terminal 1. This message will not however contain a password uniquely associated with the user's terminal 1 as required in these circumstances prior to the advent of the present invention. Whilst it is possible to deem the whole or a portion of the dialled telephone number to be an "effective password", this cannot function as a password in the sense prevailing prior to the advent of the present invention as it cannot provide for a unique identification on a per user or per user's terminal basis.

In a fifth step 24, the authentication server 5 then checks to see if this dialled telephone number is one of one or more valid telephone numbers that are stored on the authentication server 5. As indicated above, these one or more valid telephone numbers will have been stored by prior arrangement and will be associated with either the point-of-presence operator itself or with a third party.

Thus if, for example, a dummy password had been passed to the network access server 4 from the user's terminal 1, this password would then be ignored for the purposes of the authentication process. Further, if, for example, a third party had reached a prior arrangement with the point-of-presence operator as indicated above, then the third party might have distributed connection service access software to potential customers of the connection service. This access software might have been pre-configured with a username corresponding to the third party. If this username had then been passed to the network access server 4, the point-of-presence could utilise the username to record usage information as to proportions of traffic originating with respective third party customers.

If the dialled telephone number is not one of the one or more valid telephone numbers then the connection has not been made on a valid telephone number and in a sixth step 25, the authentication server 5 returns a message to the network access server 4 that access is to be denied. In a seventh step 26, the user of the user's terminal 1 is informed that access has been denied by transmitting a message to the user's terminal 1.

If however the dialled telephone number is one of the one or more valid telephone numbers, then the connection has been received on a valid telephone number and in an eighth step 27, the authentication server 5 returns a message to the network access server 4 that access is to be allowed. In a ninth step 28, the
5 network access server 4 then allocates an Internet Protocol network address to the user's terminal 1 and transmits this address to the user's terminal 1.

Finally, in a tenth step 29, the network access server 4 forms a connection between the user's terminal 1 and the Internet 6. The network access server 4 then permits messages to pass between the user's terminal 1 and the
10 public Internet 6. Where such a message is being transmitted from the user's terminal 1 to the public Internet 6, it will contain the allocated Internet network address as the source address. Where the message is being passed from the public Internet 6 to the user's terminal 1, it will include the allocated Internet network address as the destination address. The user's computer can then
15 transmit messages to other user's computers, such as the other user's computer 7 connected to the public Internet 6 using the Internet protocols mentioned above. The user's terminal 1 can also retrieve information pages from server computers, such as the server computer 8.

In an additional step in the authentication process, the network access
20 server 4 may also ascertain the telephone number from which the user's terminal 1 placed the call. Such calling number functionality, commonly referred to as Calling Line Identity (CLI), will be known from the International Telegraph and Telephone Consultative Committee (CCITT) Common-Channel Signalling System No.7. The authentication server 5 may then, for example, compare the telephone
25 number from which the user's terminal 1 placed the call with one or more stored telephone numbers which represent barred numbers. If the telephone number from which the user's terminal 1 placed the call is present on the list of such barred numbers then the authentication server 5 will not proceed to perform the authentication check on the basis of the telephone number which was dialled by
30 the user's terminal 1. The authentication server 5 will instead return a message to the network access server 4 that access is to be denied. The network access server 4 may then send such an access denied message to the user's terminal 1. It will be appreciated that this pre-authentication check could instead test the number from which the user's terminal 1 made the call against a restricted group

of one or more numbers from which network access requests are allowed to be made. It will be further appreciated that the authentication process described above in terms of the dialled number (DNIS) could be carried out instead on the basis of the calling number (CLI).

5 The arrangement shown in Figure 1 is capable of providing more than one type of connection service. Each of these services may have its own dedicated telephone number.

 In a basic service, the user's terminal 1 may be given general access to the public Internet 6. Where a user is using this basic service, the user of the
10 user's terminal 1 may be charged at, for example, an ordinary local access rate for the use of the connection through the telephone network 2 to the point-of-presence 3. The user will be billed at this rate on the number from which the user's terminal placed the connection service access call by the telephone service billing system 9. Where the point-of-presence 3 and the telephone network 2 are
15 owned by separate organisations, the telephone service billing system 9 may typically credit the owner of the Internet service provider with part of the call charge.

 The arrangement shown in Figure 1 can also provide further services. Some information service providers require a payment for providing information. In
20 a first further service, the network access server 4 provides access to one or a predefined set of server computers which provide information supplied by an information service provider and for which a payment is required. With this first further service, the call connection tariff includes a component to cover the payment required by the information service provider. The telephone service
25 billing system 9 is arranged to credit part of the call charge to the information service provider. Thus, with this first further service, the user's terminal 1 gains access both to computers which can be accessed by general users of the Internet 6 as well as the one or predefined set of server computers mentioned above.

 In a second further service, the user's terminal 1 may only be given
30 access to one or a set of server computers which contain advertising material supplied by an information service provider. With this second service, the call tariff may be either at a reduced rate or a free rate with the information service provider paying some or all of the call charge. With this second service, the telephone service billing system 9 is arranged to charge the information service

provider for some or all of the call charge. Thus, with this second service, the user's terminal 1 gains access to just one server or to a set of servers which are restricted in comparison with the servers which can be accessed by general users of the Internet 6.

- 5 In further services, yet further arrangements of restricted or expanded access to network servers may be envisaged. Such further services may be effected, as above, through a specification of the network addresses to which an authenticated user's terminal 1 has access. Likewise further charging arrangements commensurate with further business models may also be envisaged.
- 10 The connection time telephone network billing system element of the network access charge might, for example, be reduced to zero in the basic service, in favour of, for example, a fixed monthly charge.

Each such service or indeed the same or similar services offered by different operators may each have their own associated connection service access
15 telephone number.

It is to be noted that authentication according to the invention can be performed not only in terms of the dialled telephone number (DNIS) and/or the dialling telephone number (CLI) but also on the basis of other attributes associated with the connection service access route. Examples of other such attributes
20 include, for example, the Network Access Server IP address or the Network Access Server Identifier, indicating the network termination point. Similarly, when access technologies other than, for example, PSTN or ISDN, are utilised, the similarly associated access route attributes of a connection service based on this access technology can be used for such authentication.

25 Such associated access route attributes will share the above illustrated advantages associated with authentication on a dialled number. Again, all that will be required for access to the desired data network will be that the correct access route attribute be presented to the authentication server, in like fashion with the above illustrated embodiment where, rather than having to dial a valid connection
30 telephone number and have further attributes checked (which might be subject to change, either deliberate or accidental, by a user), dialling a valid connection service telephone number will alone suffice for connection to the data network of choice.

CLAIMS

1. A method of providing a connection service between a terminal and a data network, said terminal being arranged to be connected to a telephone network and
5 said telephone network being connected to said data network through an interface, said method comprising the steps of:

in response to said terminal dialling an interface telephone number from a terminal telephone number, creating a connection through said telephone network
10 between said terminal and said interface;

said interface ascertaining said dialled interface telephone number from said telephone network;

15 said interface checking that said dialled interface telephone number is one of one or more valid interface telephone numbers associated with said connection service;

in the event that said dialled interface telephone number is one of said
20 valid interface telephone numbers, said interface allocating a data network address to said terminal and transmitting said address to said terminal; and

said interface providing a connection between said terminal and said data network .

25

2. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein in said step of said interface providing a connection between said terminal and said data network, said connection is associated with a predefined set of data network addresses in said data network.

30

3. A method as claimed in claim 2 in which each said valid interface telephone number has an associated predefined set of data network addresses.

4. A method as claimed in claim 3 further including the step of arranging a telephone network billing system to charge for access to each said valid interface telephone number at an associated pre-defined tariff.

5 5. A method as claimed in any preceding claim in which, in the step of creating a connection through said telephone network between said terminal and said interface, said telephone network is arranged to associate said dialled interface telephone number with a further interface telephone number, said further interface telephone number being used to complete said connection.

10

6. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, further comprising the steps of:

said interface ascertaining said terminal telephone number;

15 said interface checking that said terminal telephone number is not one of one or more invalid terminal telephone numbers associated with said connection service; and

in the event that said terminal telephone number is one of said one or
20 more invalid terminal telephone numbers, said interface denying a connection between said terminal and said data network.

7. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, in which said interface is comprised by data network access means connected to both said telephone
25 network and said data network and authentication means, including the steps of:

said data network access means ascertaining said dialled interface telephone number from said telephone network;

30 passing said ascertained dialled interface telephone number to said authentication means;

said authentication means checking that said dialled interface telephone number is one of one or more valid interface telephone numbers associated with said connection service; and

5 in the event that said dialled interface telephone number is one of said valid interface telephone numbers, said authentication means causing said data network access means to allocate a data network address to said terminal and to transmit said address to said terminal.

10 8. A method of providing a connection service between a terminal and a data network, said terminal being arranged to be connected to a telephone network and said telephone network being connected to said data network through an interface, said method comprising the steps of:

15 in response to said terminal dialling an interface telephone number from a terminal telephone number, said interface receiving a connection through said telephone network from said terminal;

 said interface ascertaining said dialled interface telephone number from
20 said telephone network;

 said interface checking that said dialled interface telephone number is one of one or more valid interface telephone numbers associated with said connection service;

25 in the event that said dialled interface telephone number is one of said valid interface telephone numbers, said interface allocating a data network address to said terminal and transmitting said address to said terminal; and

30 said interface providing a connection between said terminal and said data network .

9. A method as claimed in claim 8 wherein in said step of said interface providing a connection between said terminal and said data network, said

connection is associated with a predefined set of data network addresses in said data network.

10. A method as claimed in claim 9 in which each said valid interface
5 telephone number has an associated predefined set of data network addresses.

11. A method as claimed in any one of claims 8 to 10, further comprising the steps of:

10 said interface ascertaining said terminal telephone number;

said interface checking that said terminal telephone number is not one of one or more invalid terminal telephone numbers associated with said connection service; and

15 in the event that said terminal telephone number is one of said one or more invalid terminal telephone numbers, said interface denying a connection between said terminal and said data network.

12. A method as claimed in any one of claims 8 to 11, in which said interface
20 is comprised by data network access means connected to both said telephone network and said data network and authentication means, including the steps of:

said data network access means ascertaining said dialled interface
25 telephone number from said telephone network;

passing said ascertained dialled interface telephone number to said authentication means;

said authentication means checking that said dialled interface telephone
30 number is one of one or more valid interface telephone numbers associated with said connection service; and

in the event that said dialled interface telephone number is one of said valid interface telephone numbers, said authentication means causing said data

network access means to allocate a data network address to said terminal and to transmit said address to said terminal.

13. A method of providing a connection service between a terminal and a data
5 network, said terminal being arranged to be connected to an access network and said access network being connected to said data network through an interface, said method comprising the steps of:

in response to said terminal calling an interface access network address
10 from a terminal access network address, said interface receiving a connection through said access network from said terminal;

said interface ascertaining an access network connection route attribute
from said access network;

15 said interface checking that said access network connection route attribute is one of one or more valid access network connection route attributes associated with said connection service;

20 in the event that said access network connection route attribute is one of said valid access network connection route attributes, said interface allocating a data network address to said terminal and transmitting said address to said terminal; and

25 said interface providing a connection between said terminal and said data network .

14. An interface for providing a connection service between a terminal and a
data network, said terminal being arranged to be connected to a telephone
30 network and said telephone network being connected to said data network through said interface, said interface comprising:

means arranged to receive a connection through said telephone network from said terminal in response to said terminal dialling an interface telephone number from a terminal telephone number;

- 5 means arranged to ascertain said dialled interface telephone number from said telephone network;

- means arranged to check that said dialled interface telephone number is one of one or more valid interface telephone numbers associated with said
10 connection service;

- means responsive to said checking means arranged to allocate a data network address to said terminal and transmitting said address to said terminal in the event that said dialled interface telephone number is one of said valid interface
15 telephone numbers; and

means arranged to provide a connection between said terminal and said data network .

- 20 15. An interface as claimed in claim 14 wherein said means arranged to provide a connection between said terminal and said data network, is arranged to associate said connection with a predefined set of data network addresses in said data network.

- 25 16. An interface as claimed in claim 15 in which each said valid interface telephone number has an associated predefined set of data network addresses.

17. An interface as claimed in any one of claims 14 to 16, further comprising:

- 30 means arranged to ascertain said terminal telephone number;

means arranged to check that said terminal telephone number is not one of one or more invalid terminal telephone numbers associated with said connection service; and

means arranged to deny a connection between said terminal and said data network in the event that said terminal telephone number is one of said one or more invalid terminal telephone numbers.

5

10

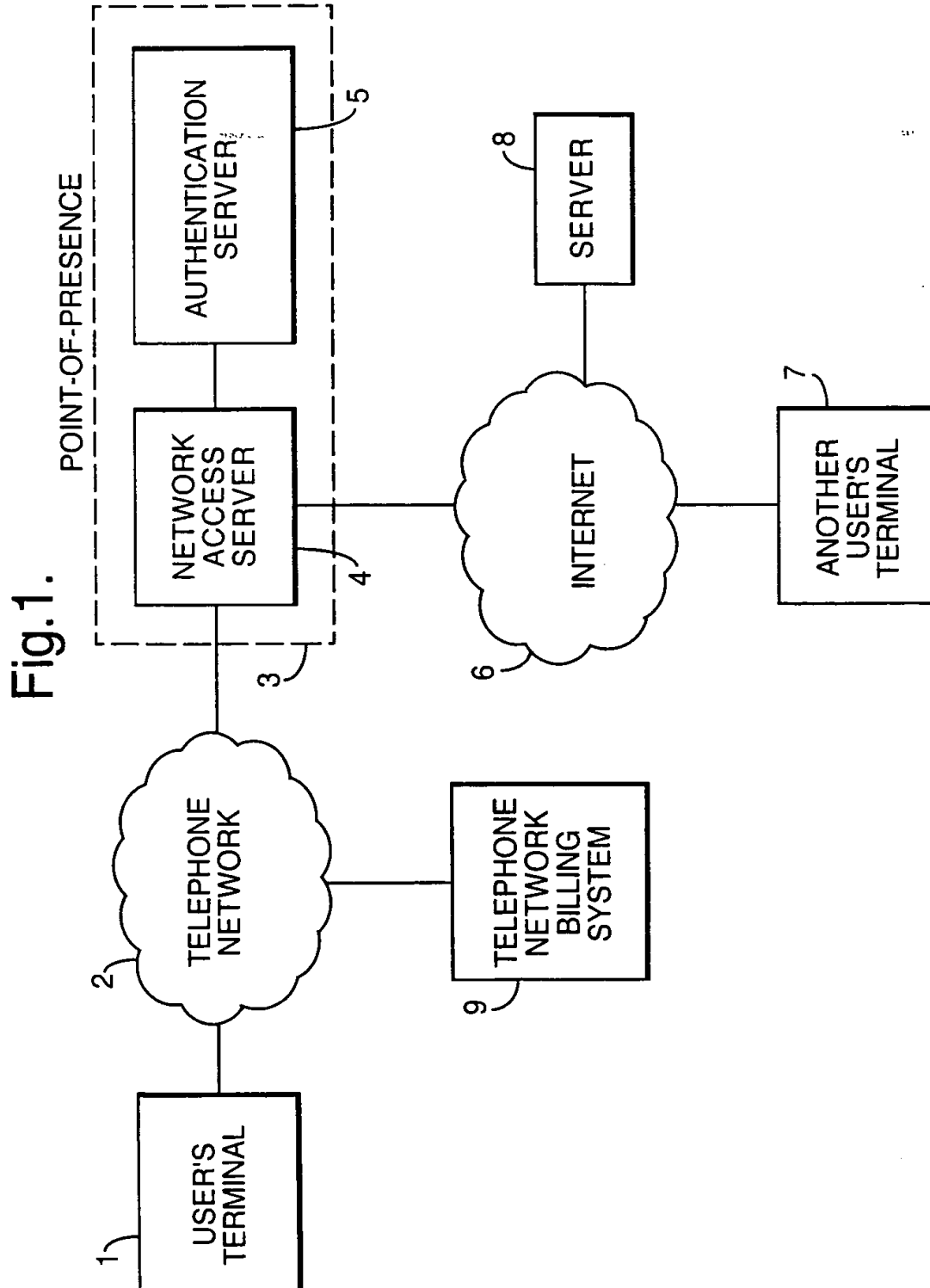
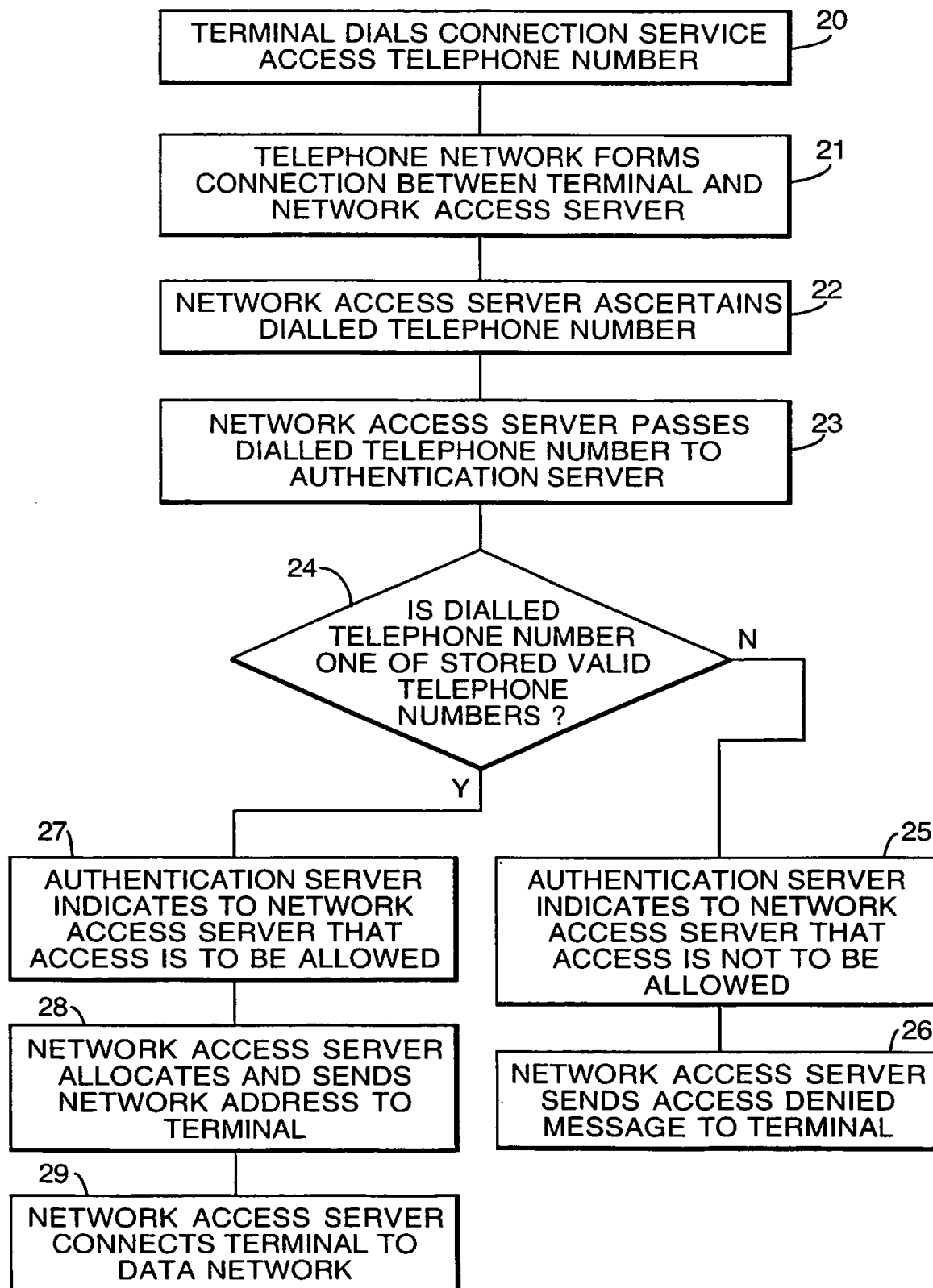


Fig.2.



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference A25632	FOR FURTHER ACTION see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No. PCT/GB 99/ 01732	International filing date (day/month/year) 01/06/1999	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 02/06/1998
Applicant BRITIDH TELECOMMUNICATIONS et.al.		

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 3 sheets.

☒ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

- a. With regard to the **language**, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

☐ the international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

- b. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing :

☐ contained in the international application in written form.

☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.

☐ the statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.

☐ the statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished

2. ☐ **Certain claims were found unsearchable** (See Box I).

3. ☐ **Unity of Invention is lacking** (see Box II).

4. With regard to the **title**,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the **abstract**,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. The figure of the **drawings** to be published with the abstract is Figure No.

☒ as suggested by the applicant.

☐ because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.

☐ because this figure better characterizes the invention.

1
☐ None of the figures.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Inte Application No

PC/GB 99/01732

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 6 H04L29/06

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 6 H04L H04Q

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	WO 97 29584 A (ERICSSON TELEFON AB L M ;MELEN BJOERN (FI); HYVOENEN MIKA (FI)) 14 August 1997 (1997-08-14) abstract page 3, line 4-10 page 5, line 25 - page 6, line 6 page 6, line 17 - page 7, line 8 page 8, line 2-8 page 8, line 21-26 page 9, line 3 - page 10, line 22 page 11, line 1-4 page 11, line 15-20 figure 2	1-17
A	EP 0 817 452 A (AT & T CORP) 7 January 1998 (1998-01-07) column 4, line 12-34 column 5, line 9 - column 7, line 54	1-17



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

3 September 1999

Date of mailing of the international search report

15/09/1999

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PC 17GB 99/01732

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	EP 0 762 707 A (TELIA AB) 12 March 1997 (1997-03-12) abstract column 1, line 36-46 column 2, line 13-27 column 2, line 29 - column 3, line 38 ---	1-17
A	EP 0 765 068 A (AT & T CORP) 26 March 1997 (1997-03-26) abstract column 1, line 55 - column 2, line 46 column 6, line 20-38 column 8, line 43-56 figure 1 -----	1-17

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/GB 99/01732

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